National Agricultural Summary

June 19 - 25, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Strong thunderstorms produced beneficial rain for parts of the Corn Belt and Great Plains. However, some areas experienced flooding, standing water, and saturated soils, while other areas remained too dry. The planting season was nearly complete, but some sorghum remained to be planted, mostly in the Great Plains. Other planting activity included replanting drowned and poorly germinated row crops. Winter grain harvest rapidly progressed in the Great Plains and accelerated in the Corn Belt, although late-week rain limited progress. Crops in the Southeast benefited from light-to-moderate showers and some isolated heavy rain, but soil moisture shortages remained in most areas. Mostly dry weather prevailed in the High Plains and into the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast States. A few monsoonal showers provided moisture to parts of the interior Southwest.

Corn: Four percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, slightly ahead of last year and the 5-year average for this date. Development was most advanced in Texas, where 60 percent was at or beyond the silking stage. Warm weather promoted rapid development in North Carolina and Tennessee, with 35 percent silking in both States. Fields also rapidly entered the silking stage in Missouri, even though temperatures averaged slightly below normal. A few fields entered the silking stage in Illinois, Kansas, and Nebraska. Widespread moderate-to-heavy rain increased soil moisture supplies in most areas of the Corn Belt. The moisture aided crop conditions in the southern and western Corn Belt, especially in Kentucky, Missouri, and Kansas. In the central and eastern Corn Belt, many fields suffered due to saturated soils and standing water. Excessive moisture also damaged some fields in Iowa and Nebraska, while parts of both States remained too dry. Warm, dry weather benefited corn fields in Michigan.

Soybeans: Development remained nearly 1 week ahead of last year and the 5-year average, with 95 percent of the acreage emerged and 8 percent of the crop blooming. Normally, 3 percent of the crop would be blooming by this date. Warm weather and ample moisture supplies promoted rapid emergence in Michigan, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Crop development was most advanced in the lower Mississippi Valley, with 35 and 43 percent blooming in Louisiana and Mississippi, respectively. Despite below-normal temperatures, development accelerated in the Corn Belt, with more than 10 percent of the crop blooming in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. A few fields progressed to the blooming stage in the northern Great Plains, ahead of normal in Nebraska and South Dakota. Heavy rain and severe flooding damaged soybean fields in North Dakota and parts of the Corn Belt, while dry weather reduced surplus moisture supplies and significantly improved conditions in Michigan. In other areas of the Corn Belt, especially in Missouri, much-needed rain improved conditions.

Winter Wheat: Harvest progressed to 52 percent complete, far ahead of last year's pace. On average, this pace would be achieved on July 4. In Kansas, harvest continued at a rapid pace for a second consecutive week, advancing 35 percentage points, despite some rain delays in eastern areas of the State. At 80 percent, the Kansas wheat harvest was four times the normal pace for this date. The harvest rapidly progressed in the southern Corn Belt, advancing 23 and 20 percentage points in Illinois and Missouri, respectively, even though progress was substantially curtailed by rain late in the week. North Carolina producers also experienced rain delays, but harvested one-fourth of their crop during the week. The harvest gained momentum in Nebraska before late-week rains halted activity. Mostly dry conditions aided harvest progress in Arkansas, California, and Texas. Harvest began in Ohio and Colorado.

Small grains: Spring wheat and barley were 43 and 41 percent headed, respectively. Development of both crops rapidly progressed and remained well ahead of last year and the average, despite below-normal temperatures across the northern Great Plains and most of the Pacific Northwest. Normally, 19 percent of the spring wheat and 21 percent of the barley are headed by this date. In Minnesota, barley headed more than doubled, to 49 percent, and spring wheat headed nearly doubled, to 53 percent. Both crops deteriorated in Minnesota due to excessive soil moisture. Sixty-five percent of the oat acreage was headed, 14 percentage points ahead of last year and 27 percentage points ahead of the average for this date. More than 40 percent of the acreage entered the heading stage in Pennsylvania during the week, while 37 percent began heading in Wisconsin. Acreage heading advanced more than 20 percentage points in North and South Dakota and nearly 30 percentage points in Minnesota. Rain significantly improved conditions in Nebraska.

Cotton: Fifty-nine percent of the cotton was at or beyond the squaring stage, well ahead of last year and the 5-year average of 47 and 48 percent, respectively. Despite seasonably cool weather, squaring rapidly progressed in the lower Mississippi Valley, advancing more than 30 percentage points in Arkansas and Tennessee. Acreage setting bolls advanced to 11 percent, 2 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Development gained momentum in the lower Mississippi Valley and Southwest, as cotton setting bolls jumped 13 percentage points in Louisiana and Arizona. In the Southeast, rain stimulated growth and above-normal temperatures accelerated development. Below-normal temperatures slowed development in Texas.

Rice: Fourteen percent of the crop was headed, ahead of last year's 10 percent and the 6-percent average for this date. Forty-five percent was headed in Louisiana and Texas, more than double the average in Louisiana and nearly three times the 5-year average in Texas. A few fields entered the heading stage in interior areas of the Mississippi Delta, although progress lagged slightly behind normal in Mississippi.

Other crops: Ninety-six percent of the sorghum acreage was planted and 16 percent was headed. Planting progress was ahead of last year and the 5-year average, while acreage at the heading stage was equal to last year's pace, but slightly behind the 5-year average. Twenty percent of the peanut acreage was pegging, slightly behind last year's pace.